

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the water soluble compound is an oligomer.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein the oligomer is an acrylate.

Claim 4 (Previously amended): The method of claim 3 wherein the acrylate is selected from the group consisting of a epoxy acrylate, a epoxy methacrylate, a polyether acrylate, a polyether methacrylate, a polyester acrylate, a polyester methacrylate, a polyurethane acrylate, a polyurethane methacrylate, a melamine acrylate, a melamine methacrylate, a polyethylene glycol diacrylate and a polyethylene glycol dimethacrylate.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 4 wherein the acrylate is an aromatic or aliphatic acrylate.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 4 wherein the acrylate is a diacrylate ester of an alkanolglycidyl ether or an ethoxylated aromatic epoxide or a polyethylene glycol diacrylate.

Claim 7 (Previously amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the diacrylate ester of an alkanolglycidyl ether is 1,4-butanedioldiglycidyl ether or the diacrylate ester is an ethoxylated aromatic epoxide.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 6 wherein the ethoxylated aromatic epoxide contains 6 to 20 ethoxy groups.

Claim 9 (Previously amended): The method of claim 8 wherein water is present in an amount ranging from about 5

weight % to about 25 weight %, based on the weight of the aqueous composition.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8 wherein the composition has a viscosity between 10 and 100,000 centipoises.

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the irradiating is carried out with high energy electrons.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises a photoinitiating system activatable by UV radiation.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 14 wherein the irradiating is carried out with UV radiation.

Claim 16 (Previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin, a polyethylene terephthalate, a metalized polyethylene terephthalate, polycarbonate, cellulosic material, paper material, cardboard material, metal, glass, polystrene, polyvinylchloride, polynaphthelene terephthalate, polyacrylate and polyacrylic.

Claim 17 (Previously amended): The method of claim 16 wherein the surface is a food packaging material.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17 wherein the food packaging material is a container or a sheet material.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein the food packaging material is the polyolefin, the metalized polyethylene terephthalate, the polyethylene terephthalate, or the metal.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 19 wherein the polyolefin is a polyethylene or polypropylene.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 19 wherein the metal is aluminum foil or steel.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 17 wherein the simulant liquid is a food simulant.

Claim 23 (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the food simulant is selected from the group consisting of a 10% ethanol/water solution; a 50% ethanol/water solution; a 95% ethanol/water solution; a food oil; a fractionated coconut oil having a boiling range of 240-270°C and composed of saturated C₈ (50-65%) and C₁₀ (30-45%) triglycerides; and a mixture of synthetic C₁₀, C₁₂, and C₁₄ triglycerides.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 16 wherein the simulant liquid is methylene chloride.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 22 wherein the heating is at least 40°C for at least 240 hours.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 22 wherein the heating is initially at least about 121°C for 2 hours and then about 40°C for 238 hours.

Claims 27-47 (Cancelled)

Claim 48 (Previously amended): A packaging material comprising a substrate and a cured film adhered to the substrate surface derived by providing a homogeneous aqueous composition consisting essentially of (a) a water soluble oligomer containing two or more acrylic groups and (b) water; applying the homogeneous aqueous composition on the substrate; and curing by actinic radiation in the presence of the water, such that less than 50 ppb of oligomer residue is extractable from the cured film when immersed and heated in 10 ml of a simulant liquid per square inch of the cured film.

Claim 49 (Original): The packaging material of claim 48 wherein the packaging material is a food packaging material and the simulant liquid is a food simulant.

Claims 50-55 (Cancelled)

Remarks

The amendments and following remarks add no new matter to the specification.

(4) Rejections under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 27-35 and 38-47 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 27-35 and 38-47 have been cancelled, so the rejection can be withdrawn.

(6) Rejection under 35 USC § 102(a)